

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 5-21 are pending in the present application, upon entry of this Amendment. Claims 1 and 4 will be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein upon entry of this Amendment, with new claim 21 being added. Claims 7, 9, 19 and 21 are independent claims.

Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action issued December 23, 2003, the Examiner indicates that the Amendment filed December 5, 2003 would be entered upon filing of an appeal, but indicates that claims 1-6, 10-15 and 19-20 would remain rejected and that claims 7-9 and 16-18 would remain objected to. Further, the Examiner indicates that the claim amendments to the claims would be entered as they resolve most of the informalities, noting that independent claims 1 and 19 require further amendment to eliminate any requirement of the guides supporting the contactors.

Response to Advisory Action

By the present Amendment, the claim amendments submitted previously have been made. Further, the amendments eliminating the requirement of the guides supporting the contactors has now been made. In addition, claims 7 and 9 have been rewritten to place them in allowable form, and other ones of the claims have been amended to ensure dependency upon an allowable claim. Finally, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and intervening claim 4 and new claim 21 has been added incorporating the subject matter of claims 19, 9 and intervening claim 4. Thus, these claims should also be allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 19. Based upon the Advisory Action, claims 7 and 9 (incorporating claim 1) and claims 19 and 21 are now believed to be in the proper form. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moriya (U.S. Patent No. 5,646,382, hereinafter "Moriya"). This rejection has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 4, and in view of the amending of claims 7 and 9 to place them in allowable form. Thus, each of claims 2, 3 and 5-21 are allowable and thus withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,539,860, hereinafter "Johnston"). This rejection has been rendered moot in view of the amending of claim 19 to place it in allowable form (as well as the adding of new independent claim 21). Thus, each of claims 2, 3 and 5-21 are allowable and thus withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Entry of the present Amendment after Final is requested in that the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. The amendments to claims 1-20 were essentially entered by the Examiner in the previous response. Further, amendments making claims 7 and 9 allowable do not raise any new issues. Finally, as

claim 19 and new claim 21 contain allowable subject matter similar to claims 7 and 9, respectively, both the amendment to claim 19 and the addition of claim 21 do not raise any new issues.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 2, 3, and 5-21 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

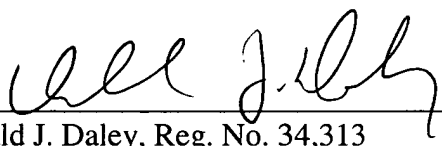
Applicant hereby petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a one (1) month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action and includes a fee of \$110.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) with this response for such extension of time.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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